

**COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
AND LICENSING
Minutes of March 6, 2003**

Members present

Ms. Dianne Chinnes
Ms. Sue Cole
Ms. DeLoris Oliver

Staff present

Ms. JoAnn Biga
Ms. Renea Eshleman
Dr. Nancy Healy
Ms. KaTina Johnson
Dr. Lynn Kelley
Mr. Alan Krech
Dr. David Loope
Dr. Gail Morrison

Guests present

Several guests were present for the meeting of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing at Coastal Carolina University.

Ms. Chinnes called the meeting to order at 10.15 a.m. and announced that the meeting was being held in compliance with the State's Freedom of Information Act.

1. Consideration of Minutes of November 6, 2002

Ms. Chinnes introduced the item and asked if there were any corrections. There being no corrections, the Minutes of November 6, 2002, were approved as circulated.

2. Consideration of Minutes of Special Meeting of January 9, 2003

Ms. Chinnes introduced the item and asked if there were any corrections. There being no corrections, the Minutes of January 9, 2003, were approved as circulated.

3. Consideration of New Program Proposals

a. B.A., Early Childhood Education, USC-Beaufort

Ms. Chinnes introduced the item and asked Dr. Morrison to give a brief overview of the program proposal. Dr. Morrison stated that at the request of Dr. Barton, the staff agrees to remove "provisional" approval status from its original recommendation for this degree program and grant full approval status since USC-Beaufort would be going through SACS accreditation. She went on to say that the purpose of this program is to train teachers to serve the span of pre-kindergarten through fourth grade. The need for this program is based on the number of students currently enrolled in the USC-Aiken program and the expanding school-age population of the Beaufort service area. Dr. Morrison stated that according to information submitted by USC-Beaufort at the time of the Commission's approval of USC-Beaufort as a four-year campus, new academic

programs of the institution will benefit from the financing of the New River Campus by the \$50 million TIF (Tax Increment Financing) district of Beaufort County. Without discussion, approval was **moved** (Oliver) and **seconded** (Cole). Assuming SACS approval of USC-Beaufort as a four-year institution, the Committee **voted to commend** to the Commission approval of the program leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education at USC-Beaufort, to be implemented in Fall 2003, provided that 1) no “unique cost” or other special state funding be required or requested; 2) the program hire the requisite faculty with appropriate terminal degrees and has them on staff by Fall 2003; 3) the program is approved by the State Board of Education; 4) the program seek and obtain NCATE accreditation and NAEYC approval in the next accreditation cycle following graduation of its first full class of students in 2007; and 5) USC-Aiken discontinue its early childhood education program at USC-Beaufort with no new students accepted after August 2003. Maintenance of approval status becomes dependent on whether the program is approved by the State Board of Education and NCATE accreditation and NAEYC approval are obtained.

b. B.A., English, USC-Beaufort

Dr. Morrison introduced the item stating that this program will serve as a foundational major in USC-Beaufort’s new baccalaureate curriculum. She stated that currently USC-Columbia offers the Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies in Beaufort, but will not accept new students in the program at USC-Beaufort as of Fall 2003. Without discussion, approval was **moved** (Cole) and **seconded** (Oliver). Assuming SACS approval of USC-Beaufort as a four-year institution, the Committee **voted to commend favorably** to the Commission approval of the program leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree in English at USC-Beaufort to be implemented in Fall 2003 at the Beaufort Campus and at the New River Campus when it opens in Fall 2004, provided that no “unique cost” or other special state funding be required or requested.

c. B.A., Liberal Studies, USC-Beaufort

Dr. Morrison introduced the item stating that this program is modeled on the Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies which has been offered by USC-Columbia on the USC-Beaufort campus for many years. She stated that this program is designed to enhance students’ creative and intellectual capacities as well as allow them some flexibility in designing upper-level curriculum based on previous studies and employment objectives. Without discussion, approval was **moved** (Cole) and **seconded** (Oliver). Assuming SACS approval of USC-Beaufort as a four-year institution, the Committee **voted to commend favorably** to the Commission approval of the program leading to the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies at USC-Beaufort to be implemented in Fall 2003 at the Beaufort Campus and at the New River Campus when it opens in Fall 2004, provided that no “unique cost” or other special state funding be required or requested.

d. B.A., Nonprofit Administration, USC-Spartanburg

Dr. Morrison introduced the item stating that the program is designed to be an interdisciplinary degree that will be built around four major courses focused on the

nonprofit sector. Dr. Morrison stated that the need for the program is based upon the growth in the nonprofit sector. According to the proposal submitted by USC-Spartanburg, the Upstate has over 1720 nonprofit organizations. Dr. Morrison stated that the program will not be required to seek any accreditation or specialized certification. Without discussion, approval was **moved** (Oliver) and **seconded** (Cole), and the Committee **voted to commend favorably** to the Commission approval of the program leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree in Nonprofit Administration at USC-Spartanburg, to be implemented in Fall 2003, provided that no “unique cost” or other special state funding be required or requested and provided further that the single discipline concentration in Nonprofit Administration currently offered under the program leading to the B.A.I.S. degree be discontinued as of Fall 2003.

e. B.S., Hospitality Management, USC-Beaufort

Dr. Morrison introduced the item stating that the program is designed to prepare students for employment in the hospitality industry in the Lowcountry and the State of South Carolina. She stated that the program is a successor program to the Hotel, Restaurant, Tourism Management Program operated by USC-Columbia by distance education since 1998 in USC-Beaufort. According to the proposal, two new full-time faculty positions will be hired to begin academic year 2003-04. Dr. Barton stated that USC-Beaufort has already hired one faculty member to support this program and is in the process of hiring the second faculty member. Without discussion, approval was **moved** (Cole) and **seconded** (Oliver). Assuming SACS approval of USC-Beaufort as a four-year institution, the Committee **voted to commend favorably** to the Commission approval of the program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree in Hospitality Management to be implemented in Fall 2003 at the Beaufort Campus and at the New River Campus when it opens in Fall 2004, provided that no “unique cost” or other special state funding be required or requested and provided further that USC-Columbia discontinue its existing program at Beaufort in December 2003.

f. B.S., Human Services, USC-Beaufort

Dr. Morrison introduced the item stating that this program will prepare students for employment in a large variety of governmental agencies and nongovernmental organizations dealing with human needs. The South Carolina Employment Security Commission has reported a 5.64% increase annually in the 1996-2006 period for human service workers in the Lowcountry area served by USC-Beaufort. Without discussion, approval was **moved** (Cole) and **seconded** (Oliver). Assuming SACS approval of USC-Beaufort as a four-year institution, the Committee **voted to commend favorably** to the Commission approval of the program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree in Human Services to first be implemented in Fall 2003 at the Beaufort Campus and the Hilton Head campus until it closes, and then at the New River Campus when it opens in Fall 2004, provided that no “unique cost” or other special state funding be required or requested and provided further that USC-Columbia discontinue its existing program at Beaufort in December 2003.

g. B.S.B.A. in International Business, USC-Columbia

Dr. Morrison introduced the item stating that USC-Columbia is requesting to offer a new degree program leading to the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a major in International Business. Dr. Morrison stated that students will enroll in the new major in International Business as a second major within the Moore School of Business. Majors will need to fulfill an overseas study requirement at an institution outside the boundaries of the United States. Dr. Morrison pointed out that this proposed program will be building on the strengths of the successful international business program at the graduate level. Without discussion, approval was **moved** (Cole) and **seconded** (Oliver) and the Committee **voted to commend favorably** to the Commission approval of the program leading to the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a major in International Business at USC-Columbia to be implemented in Fall 20003, provided that no “unique cost” or other special state funding be required or requested.

h. B.S., Turfgrass, Clemson University

Dr. Morrison introduced the item stating that this proposed program will prepare students for employment in the science and business of turfgrass management and maintenance primarily associated with golf courses and athletic facilities. Dr. Morrison stated that this proposed program has existed as an option within the BS in Horticulture degree program, and due to student demand, Clemson is requesting to offer this program as a free-standing major. Without discussion, approval was **moved** (Cole) and **seconded** (Oliver) and the Committee **voted to commend favorably** to the Commission approval of the degree program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree in Turfgrass to be implemented in Fall 2003, provided that no “unique cost” or other special state funding be required or requested, and provided further that Clemson University conclude articulation agreements with the two related, existing associate degree programs at Horry-Georgetown and Spartanburg Technical Colleges and confirm finalization of these agreements to the Commission by September 1, 2004.

i. M.S., Transportation, S.C. State University

Dr. Morrison introduced the item stating that the purpose of this proposed program will prepare graduate students for work as professionals who can plan, manage, and operate transportation systems, especially in South Carolina. She pointed out that S.C. State will add 24 new graduate courses to its curriculum in order to implement the new program. The University will draw existing faculty from several disciplines to teach in the new interdisciplinary program in Transportation. Dr. Morrison stated that this proposed program will be unique to the State and complements well S.C. State’s growing specialty in the field of transportation established under their Transportation Center. Without discussion, approval was **moved** (Oliver) and **seconded** (Cole) and the Committee **voted to commend favorably** to the Commission approval of the program leading to the Master of Science degree in Transportation at S.C. State University to be implemented immediately upon Commission approval, provided that no “unique cost” or other special state funding be required or requested.

j. Executive International Master of Business Administration, USC-Columbia at Guadalajara, Mexico

Dr. Morrison introduced the item stating that this proposed program will build on the strength of USC-Columbia's existing international business program at the master's level by allowing business executives in Guadalajara, Mexico, to work toward a professional master's degree in the management and study of global business. She stated that USC-Columbia and Tec de Monterrey will run the program in cohort format and will enroll no more than two cohorts at any one time. Without discussion, approval was **moved** (Cole) and **seconded** (Oliver) and the Committee **voted to commend favorably** to the Commission approval of the program leading to the Executive International Master of Business Administration to be offered by USC-Columbia in Guadalajara, Mexico, to be implemented in Fall 2000, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested and provided further that USC-Columbia report the student enrollment for the E.I.M.B.A. separately from other programs that receive state funding through the Mission Resource Requirement process since state policy prohibits funding for out-of-country programs.

k. Ph.D., Human Factors Psychology, Clemson University

Dr. Morrison introduced the item stating that the purpose of this proposed program is to train doctoral-level students in the design of work environments and technology systems that are safe, productive, comfortable, and error-free. Dr. Morrison pointed out that this proposed program will be unique to the State and will meet the needs of a fast-growing industry. Without discussion, approval was **moved** (Cole) and **seconded** (Oliver), and the Committee **voted to commend favorably** to the Commission approval of the program leading to the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Human Factors Psychology at Clemson University, to be implemented in Fall 2003, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested.

l. Center for Nuclear Environmental Engineering Science and Radioactive Waste Management, Clemson University

Dr. Morrison introduced the item stating that the purpose of this Center is to provide a centralized and focused entity for the study and research related to radioactive contamination and radioactive waste management. The Center will focus on research and education in the characterization, evaluation, and remediation of radioactive contamination as well as the evaluation and development of processes for the management of radioactive waste. Dr. Morrison pointed out that Clemson is seeking formal Commission approval for this Center because it might elect to pursue special funding from the General Assembly at some unspecified point in the future. Without discussion, approval was **moved** (Oliver) and **seconded** (Cole), and the Committee **voted to commend favorably** to the Commission approval of the Center for Nuclear Environmental Engineering Sciences and Radioactive Waste Management at Clemson University to be established immediately upon Commission approval.

4. Consideration of Admission Standards Report for First-Time Entering Freshmen, FY 2001-02

This item was deferred until the April 30, 2003, meeting of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing.

5. Consideration of Improving Teacher Quality Competitive Grants Program Awards, FY 2002-03

Ms. Chinnes introduced the item and called on Dr. Morrison to give a brief overview. Dr. Morrison stated that since 1994, the Commission has been responsible for administering federal funds under a Title II program of *The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)*. She stated that in 2001, the federal legislation was re-authorized under *The No Child Left Behind Act*, which authorizes the Commission to conduct a competitive awards program. Dr. Morrison stated that a review panel consisting of K-12, higher education, and business representative met on February 13, 2003, to review and rate the proposal submitted for consideration. Dr. Morrison stated that the review panel determined that five of the 15 proposals were fundable projects. The funding amount requested for the new awards is \$341,301.75. Dr. Morrison stated that the Commission has the option of awarding two years of funding out of FY 2002-03. She stated that if this proves feasible, then the award amount would total \$614,148.75. Without discussion, approval was **moved** (Cole) and **seconded** (Oliver) and the Committee **voted to commend favorably** to the Commission funding approval of \$614,148.75, assuming CHE receives guidelines from the U.S. Department of Education on how to distribute the money in the second year. In keeping with the procedures from previous years, the staff requests the authority to negotiate the final program activities and budgets with the project directors (as per the recommendations of the Review Panel). Funding will be contingent upon the project directors' revisions of the proposed project to meet the Review Panel's recommended changes.

6. Consideration of Submitting Legislation Pertaining to False Academic Credentials

Ms. Chinnes introduced the item and called on Dr. Morrison. Dr. Morrison stated that the staff is requesting approval to seek an amendment to the Nonpublic Postsecondary Institution License Act. She then called on Ms. Eshleman to give a brief overview of the proposed legislation. Ms. Eshleman stated that suggestions for these changes derive from situations that have arisen based on licensing activities, on application of the requirements for licensure, or, as in this case, from trends in higher education in the context of licensing requirements in other states. She stated that unaccredited institutions have an increasing presence on the Internet, and often times, students confuse unscrupulous institutions with legitimate deliverers of distance education. Ms. Eshleman stated that the proposed language defines valid academic credentials and prohibits the use of academic credentials unless the institution or entity that awarded the credential is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or is able to document that it meets comparable standards of academic quality. Ms. Eshleman stated that this proposed language has been submitted

to the Attorney General and has incorporated suggested changes. She stated that if this proposed legislation is approved by the Committee and Commission, the staff will seek further advice from Legislative Council. After considerable discussion about the various sites identified in the write-up which advertises fake degrees, approval was **moved** (Cole) and **seconded** (Oliver), and the Committee **voted to commend favorably** to the Commission approval of the proposed change to the licensing statute as shown in the write-up, and authorized staff to pursue the changes in the statute to establish the parameters for valid academic credentials.

7. Other

There being no other business, Ms. Chinnes adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KaTina Johnson